

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

December 14, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

Yesterday I joined James Baker of Curtis Ambulance for an annual tradition - delivery of Christmas trees to various churches in the inner city. Jim's in-laws have a tree farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and he brings down a number of trees each year to share with the community. Besides churches, we also dropped in at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. What a joy to see all of the gifts for the kids.

Last week, we lit the Christmas tree in the courthouse. What an amazing event. Two families joined together. One remembering the death of a loved one. The other cherishing the life that was saved by the heart donated to keep a husband, father and grandfather alive for yet another Christmas.

On Sunday, we lit more wicks on the menorah candle in Red Arrow Park. It is part of the Jewish tradition during the Festival of Lights to remember the efforts to overcome darkness with light and oppression with hope.

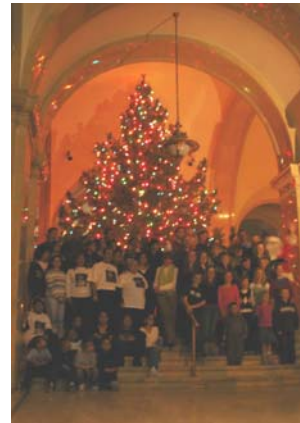
Next week, those who are Muslim observe the Festival of Sacrifice. In each case, we celebrate our own religious beliefs while honoring the practices of others. Freedom of religion does not mean freedom from religion. So however you celebrate this time of year, make it special with your family and loved ones and continue to look for signs of hope during the season!

Scott



Walker stops by for a visit at the Milwaukee Christian Center and met with members of the Hmong community preparing for the Hmong New Year celebration.

County Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



The county Christmas tree lighting in the Courthouse rotunda featured holiday music by the Salvation Army Band, pictures with Santa for the kids, ornament making, tree trimming, and hot chocolate, coffee, punch and cookies provided by the new beverage and food service suppliers – City.net Café and Elliott's Off Broadway.

The Brauer family of Glendale gave the spruce tree to the county in memory of Gabriel O. Ramirez-Lyons who died in 2006 and donated a heart and kidney to Mr. Bud Brauer. Both families gathered to meet and flip the switch to light the tree (above).

Read the story by Jim Stingl in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=694201>

Angels in the Courthouse



Stop in at the Courthouse rotunda and select a card from the tree with a gift idea for a local needy child. Names were provided by Carmelite Home for Boys, La Causa – Bilingual Youth and Family Service, Liberty & Truth Social Service, St. Rose Youth and Family Services, and the Salvation Army. Gifts with the recipient's card are to be returned to Facilities Management in Room G-1 of the Courthouse by December 19. No time to wrap? No problem – Wilson Senior Center volunteers will assist with wrapping the gifts. Donors will receive a red t-shirt with an "Angel in the Courthouse" logo when they turn in the gift. Your thoughtful donations are appreciated and will make the holidays happier for many in our community.

Pearl Harbor Memorial



County Executive Walker met Pearl Harbor survivor Ken Sweet, a retired Air Force Colonel, at the memorial service held at the Milwaukee County War Memorial December 7.

Winter in the Parks



County Executive Walker opened the Red Arrow Park Slice of Ice skating rink for the season. Skaters may use the rink for free if they bring their own skates, or rentals available for \$5.50.

The sledding hills are a popular destination after close to 15 inches of snowfall already this season. Visit www.countyparks.com for locations in your neighborhood.

The Domes Christmas floral show, "Holiday on the Village Square" showcases stunning poinsettias and trees decorated by local organizations, making a perfect backdrop for a family photo, through January 6.

Three Milwaukee County Parks are decorated for the Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival, including Cathedral Square, Pere Marquette and Zeidler Union Square. The Jingle Bus makes it easy to view all three locations with a 40-minute narrated tour for only \$1 per person. For more information, go to MilwaukeeHolidayLights.com

Sign up to help Seniors

Area seniors need your help! Volunteer shovelers are needed for the Interfaith Older Adult Program of Milwaukee County's Good Neighbor project. Call the "Good Neighbor" hotline at (414) 220-8650 for information.